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Mekong region water-related MSPs: Unfulfilled potential

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Description / Abstract

Chapter 13 in Multi-Stakeholder Platforms for Integrated Water Management (2007), Edited by Jeroen Warner

As they provide a negotiating space for a diversity of interests, Multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) are an increasingly popular mode of involving civil society in resource management decisions. This book focuses on water management to take a positive, if critical, look at this phenomenon. Illustrated by a wide geographical range of case studies from both developed and developing worlds, it recognizes that MSPs will neither automatically break down divides nor bring actors to the table on an equal footing, and argues that MSPs may in some cases do more harm than good. The volume then examines how MSPs can make a difference and how they might successfully co-opt the public, private and civil-society sectors. The book highlights the particular difficulties of MSPs when dealing with integrated water management programmes, explaining how MSPs are most successful at a less complex and more local level. It finally questions whether MSPs are - or can be - sustainable, and puts forward suggestions for improving their durability.

Publication year

2007

Publisher

Routledge

Keywords

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships Mekong River

Format

Book chapter

Thematic Tagging

Gender Youth

Language English

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B3.05

Source URL: <https://iwrmaactionhub.org/resource/mekong-region-water-related-msps-unfulfilled-potential>